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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 IO-13 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /100 W
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R 131010Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4603
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 05321

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: ARIAS-SALGADO NAMED UCD "COORDINATOR";
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHAKEN UP AND EXPANDED

REF: MADRID 4701

1. SUMMARY: THE GOVERNMENT UCD HAS TAKEN A STEP FORWARD IN GETTING AN ORGANIZATIONAL GRIP ON ITSELF, REVAMPING AND APPRECIABLY STRENGTHENING THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND GIVING NEW ORGANIZATION SECRETARY RAFAEL ARIAS-SALGADO THE ADDITIONAL TITLE OF "COORDINATOR". WHILE SUAREZ AND KEY CONFIDANT ABRIL MARTORELL WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE THE IMPORTANT DECISIONS, THE BEEFED-UP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, WITH ITS INFUSION OF POLITICAL MINISTERS
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AND KEY PARLIAMENTARIANS, SHOULD HELP TO OVERCOME THE SENSE OF DRIFT AT THE PARTY'S TOP ECHELONS. INTERNAL DIFFERENCES, HOWEVER, WILL CONTINUE. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIME MINISTER ADOLFO SUAREZ AND HIS UCD TOOK THE LONG-AWAITED STEP TOWARD MORE EFFECTIVE PARTY ORGANIZATION AND COORDINATION MAY 11 WHEN THE PARTY'S POLITICAL

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COUNCIL APPROVED A NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LINE-UP, ADDING CABINET MINISTERS WHO ARE ALSO IN THE CORTES AND THE HEADS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP IN EACH HOUSE, REVISING THE LINE-UP OF PARTY SECRETARIES AND INCREASING THEIR CALIBER, AND GIVING NEW ORGANIZATION SECRETARY RAFAEL ARIAS-SALGADO, HERETOFORE SECRETARY GENERAL (AND ACTING MINISTER) FOR RELATIONS WITH THE CORTES, THE ADDITIONAL DESIGNATION OF "COORDINATOR". FORMER ELECTORAL ACTION SECRETARY ARTURO MOYA WAS MADE HEAD OF A NEW FOUNDATION (WITH THE PROVISIONAL NAME OF "LIBERTY AND LABOR") WHICH IS TO SUPPORT INDEPENDENT TRADE UNIONS SYMPATHETIC TO UCD.

3. EARLY LOCAL PRESS REACTION FOCUSED ON ARIAS-SALGADO AS THE PARTY'S NEW "NUMBER TWO", WHICH WE THINK IS SOMEWHAT OFF THE MARK. HE HAD INDEED BEEN SEEN TO PERFORM EFFECTIVELY IN HIS PREVIOUS JOB (WHICH HE WILL LEAVE TO WORK FULL-TIME ON THE PARTY), AND APPEARED TO HAVE WON THE CONFIDENCE OF SUAREZ AND OF SECOND VICE PRESIDENT (AND KEY SUAREZ CONFIDANT) FERNANDO ABRIL MARTORELL. HE IS KNOWN IN POLITICAL CIRCLES TO HAVE BEEN ABRIL'S CHOICE FOR THE POSITION, AND THIS SHAKEUP OF THE PARTY IS GENERALLY VIEWED BY INSIDERS AS FURTHER CONSOLIDATION OF ABRIL'S ALREADY CONSIDERABLE POWERS. IN FACT, IT IS CERTAIN THAT SUAREZ AND ABRIL WILL CONTINUE TO CALL THE IMPORTANT SHOTS, WITH ARIAS-SALGADO CONFIDENTIAL

FACED WITH THE TASK -- NO EASY ONE -- OF COORDINATING MATTERS WITHIN THE PARTY.

4. THE KEY PROBLEM OF GETTING A GRIP ON THE PARTY AND BUILDING UP ITS ORGANIZATION (REFTEL) WAS GIVEN A REAL BOOST BY THIS MOVE. THE INFUSION OF THE POLITICAL MINISTERS, THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP CHIEFS, AND SUCH HEAVY-HITTING CONGRESSMEN AS GAMIR, GRANDES, NUNEZ, AND VIANA (WHO WERE AT OR NEAR THE TOP OF THE PARTY LISTS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE PROVINCES) MEANS THAT THE TRUE WIELDERS OF POWER WITHIN THE PARTY ARE NOW ALSO PART OF ITS TOP EXECUTIVE ORGAN. WHILE THE DESIGNATION OF AN ACTUAL SECRETARY GENERAL HAS BEEN PUT OFF TO THE HOLDING OF THE PARTY CONGRESS, AND THAT CONGRESS HAS BEEN PUT OFF UNTIL AUGUST AT THE EARLIEST (WHICH PROMPTED THE RESIGNATION SOME DAYS BEFORE OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER GONZALO CASADO), THE NEW FUSION OF POLITICAL POWER AND EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY SHOULD HELP TO OVERCOME THE SENSE OF DRIFT AT THE PARTY'S TOP ECHELONS. INTERNAL DIFFERENCES, INEVITABLE IN VIEW OF THE PARTY'S HETEROGENEOUS MAKE-UP, WILL CONTINUE, BUT A STEP HAS UNDENIABLY BEEN TAKEN IN THE DESIRED PARTY-

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BUILDING DIRECTION.

5. THE NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MADRID 05321

PRESIDENT: ADOLFO SUAREZ

COORDINATOR GENERAL AND SECRETARY FOR ORGANIZATION:
RAFAEL ARIAS-SALGADO Y MONTALVO

SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC RELATIONS: ALVARO ALONSO
CASTRILLO

SECRETARY FOR FORMATION: LUIS GAMIR CASARES (NEW:
DEPUTY FROM ALICANTE; SOCIAL DEMOCRAT)

SECRETARY FOR CULTURAL ACTION: CARMELA GARCIA MORENO

SECRETARY FOR YOUTH: LUIS DE GRANDES PASCUAL (NEW:
DEPUTY FROM GUADALAJARA; CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT)

SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION: GUILLERMO MEDINA
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SECRETARY FOR ELECTORAL ACTION: MANUAL NUNEZ PEREZ (NEW: DEPUTY FROM LEON; INDEPENDENT)

SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: JAVIER RUPEREZ

SECRETARY FOR CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS: JESUS MARIA VIANA SANTA CRUZ (NEW: DEPUTY FROM ALAVA; INDEPENDENT)

HEADS OF UCD PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS: JOSE PEDRO PEREZ LLORCA (CONGRESS); ANTONIO JIMENEZ BLANCO (SENATE)

PARLIAMENTARY MINISTERS: ABRIL, CABANILLAS, CAVERO, CALVO-SOTELO, CLAVERO, GARRIGUES, FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ, LAVILLA,MARTIN VILLA, SANCHEZ DE LEON, SANCHEZ TERAN

SECRETARY FOR THE PARTY CONGRESS: ENRIQUE GALAVIS (NEW: INDEPENDENT).

6. BIO NOTE: RAFAEL ARIAS-SALGADO Y MONTALVO, A YOUNG (36) CAREER DIPLOMAT ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE SINCE 1973, WAS PROMINENT IN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATIONS (WITH FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ). DEPUTY FROM TOLEDO, HE HAS STRUCK US IN OUR DEALINGS WITH HIM AS THE VERY MODEL OF A RISING GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE: BRIGHT, ENERGETIC, AMBITIOUS, COMPETENT, PLEASANT-MANNERED, AND CONFIDENT. HIS DESIGNATION HAS NOT GONE DOWN WELL WITH ALL PARTY CURRENTS, HOWEVER, AND AN ERROR IN HIS TICKLISH NEW JOB COULD PROVE VERY COSTLY TO HIS POLITICAL FUTURE. EATON

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TAGS: PINT, SP, UCD, (ARIAS-SALGADO, RAFAEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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